



ome improvement projects require special care to prevent water quality problems. Paint use, paint removal, and driveway, walkway, and patio installation and repair are just some of the activities where the use of household hazardous materials used can negatively affect streams, aquatic organisms and surrounding wildlife.

Painting/Paint Removal

- ❑ Water-based paints are generally less toxic than oil-based paints. Look for "latex", "low VOID paint", "solvent-free" or "clean up with water" on the label.
- ❑ Buy only what you are going to use.
- ❑ Don't use paints manufactured prior to 1977. They may contain toxic levels of lead. Take old or unwanted paint to a household hazardous waste collection site for disposal. Please call 397-6118x4352 for info on locations and times.
- ❑ After getting as much water-based paint off brushes and out of paint trays as possible, wash off the excess paint in an indoor sink rather than outdoors.
- ❑ Paint out oil-based paint brushes as much as possible and then use thinners and solvents. Dispose of excess paint and thinner at the household hazardous waste program. (See Section on Hazardous Wastes.)
- ❑ When they are thoroughly dry, empty paint cans, used brushes, rags and drop cloths may be disposed of in the garbage.

- Dispose of empty aerosol paint cans in the garbage, taking unwanted to collection.
- When pressure-washing exterior house paint, keep wash water from discharging into a storm drain. Divert it onto grass and use a wet-vacuum to pick up paint chips.
- Chemical paint stripping residue, including saturated rags, is a hazardous waste and should be taken to a household hazardous waste collection site.
- Lead paint chips are a hazardous waste and should be swept up, bagged, and taken to a local household hazardous waste collection site.
- Reuse paint thinner or cleaning solvents. Set aside in a closed, labeled jar to settle out paint particles, then pour off clear liquid for future use. Dispose of paint and thinner residue through the household hazardous waste program.
- Save unused paint for future paint jobs or find someone who can use it.. Donate it to an organization that needs contributions or recycle it at a household hazardous waste collection facility.

Driveways, walkways, and patios

- Set up and operate small mixers on heavy tarps or drop cloths.
- Never wash excess material from bricklaying or patio or driveway construction into a storm drain.
- Collect and reuse excess gravel and sand.
- Don't use your hose as a broom. Never hose down driveways, sidewalks, or streets into storm drains.
- Apply driveway sealant when no rain is forecast. Sweep first to prepare and carefully follow the directions.
- Try to minimize the use of impervious surfaces and slope such surfaces toward vegetated areas. (See landscaping section of this manual for additional information.)

For more information, contact Clark County Public Works, Environmental Services at 397-6118, ext. 4345